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Notes from KO4ZFO (Rodney)

Presently, I am serving as the Net Manager until someone volunteers to take it over from me. We are always looking for backup net controllers. If you are interested, please let me know.

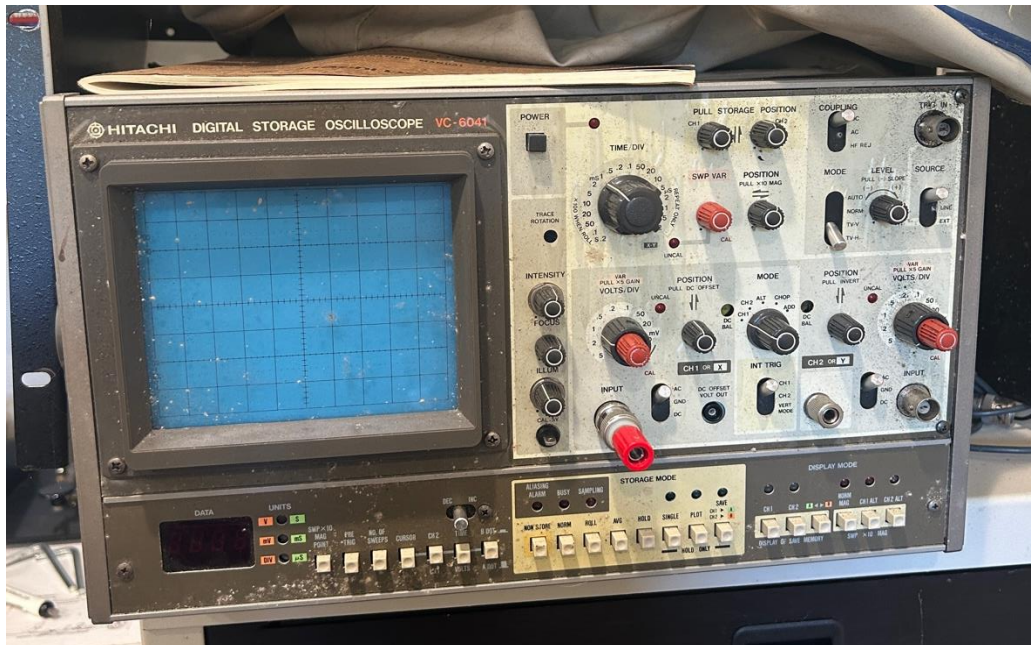
I am also SWARC's representative for the Ham Booth exhibit at the State Fair (Oct 12-22) and we are still looking for volunteers to take a shift at manning the booth. We really need your support for some of weekend slots, particularly.

JARSfest is coming up on November 19th. If anyone wants to reserve a table, then we need volunteers to man the table over the course of the event (Sunday morning thru early afternoon). This would be the perfect time to sell the items listed in the paragraph below.

In our radio room, there is a 1.5 kw tuner and an oscilloscope or other troubleshooting equipment that we should dispose of to make room in a cabinet that can be repurposed for other use. If you are interested in either piece of equipment or could suggest a value to be placed on them for sale at local swapfests, please reach out to me.



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We ask you to keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

Gary, KO4LQX, Kenny, KJ4CVK, Velda, K4VJC, Mike, KD4MC, and Steve, KA0GMY.

Steve, KA0GMY, continues to have health issues, so remember him, Steve Jr., and Miss Gloria as well (particularly). They have recently been seen at breakfast and they attended this meeting—hooray!

Gary Plante, KO4LQX, has a new throat scan scheduled for October 10th. He has been receiving immunology treatments, but he is concerned about this upcoming scan since he has been experiencing a very sore throat. He needs our continued thoughts and prayers.

Velda Callam, K4VJC, still has many challenges ahead so reach out to Mike and see how you can help in any way. Prayer is always appreciated.

Kenny, KJ4CVK, may still be in flux regarding permanent housing arrangements so keep him in your thoughts.

SWARC de KO4ZFO



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Notes from WB4SMS (Steve)

November's meeting is a CERT informational meeting. Samantha Royster from the NC CERT Program Manager will bring her presentation to our club. There is interest in starting a CERT team in Fuquay. Our host, the American Legion, is looking for anyone willing to help out. You do not have to be a Legion member to be on their CERT team. You don't even need your amateur radio license. Samantha has said that over 50% of the team members in NC do have their license though. I look forward to seeing everyone at this informational meeting to see how we can give back to our community.

SWARC de WB4SMS

SWARC 4 October 2023 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was well attended and there was plenty of food. This was probably the best turnout of members in quite some time.

Those in physical attendance were:

Richard Hall (K7RLH), Bill Blomgren (KK4QDZ), Al Crawford (WA4TCJ), Linda Crawford (KI4LO), Steve Suzanne (WB4SMS), Ken Castille (KN4GUS), Don Nicholson (KN4OEY), Paul Nicholson (KN4NGI), Dave Yow, (K4MSE), Brian Knox (KK4BK), Mike Gaither (K4MWG), Dave Krum (NW3U) and Penny, Steve Mowels (KA0GMY) and Gloria, Steve Worth (NC4SW), former member Ron Cooney (K4AAA), Stan Disbrow (W2CK)



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who brought a member application and check and guest, Robert Hansel (no call sign yet).

On Zoom: Bernie Jones (N4BAJ)

The official start for the meeting was 6:45 pm with Pledge of Allegiance led by Brian (KK4BK). Introductions were made around the room—we had one guest noted above and a new member application and check submitted by Stan Disbrow (W2CK)-also note above. Officer and chair reports are included in the body of these minutes.

Old/Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Steve (KA0GMY) moved that we donate \$300 to Danny Hampton (K4ITL) for repeater maintenance. This will be augmented by additions funds that we contribute at \$10/renewed member. The motion was seconded and passed.

The other item of business is that our web site hosting fee is due in November and we need to see if the monthly draw can be taken directly from the bank account. No motion required.

Program/Presentation

Sadly, for unknown reasons, our presenter did not join the Zoom call. However, like the good Boy Scout that he once was, Richard (K7RLH) had a backup plan. He had previously downloaded the pdf version of the slides and we went through them covering the content, but without any anecdotal type conversation that our planned presenter might have



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contributed, and, of course, there was no Q&A like we might have had. The pdf of the slides is sent as an attachment with this newsletter so that you may review at your leisure any of the items presented therein.

Public Service

Check the HPSNC.org web site often for Public Service opportunities. The public service season is upon us and events need volunteers. You may also get to public service events on the RARS website.

Dave Krum (NW3U) noted that most of the season is over for this year, but you can always check the site for any changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Christy Fernandini's emailed report showed a modest increase in the finances during September. Balance of \$2,2363.08 with no obligated funds or invoices outstanding. Income from dues of \$30 and a \$6 charge from the bank. Overall, the club is healthy but we could use more renewals from members. Many of our long-standing members are on the brink of being eliminated—it's not too late to pay your renewal.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Hall K7RLH
Secretary and Newsletter Editor



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MEMBERSHIP

You can bring a check or cash for dues to the next meeting or mail them to the club PO box and Christy will advise she has received them. Also, you can now renew somewhat online by contacting Christy and giving her the appropriate credit card info for the 'Square' account. Christy's email is christyfernandini@outlook.com. Make checks payable to South Wake ARC and send to South Wake ARC – PO Box 1565 – Fuquay Varina, NC 27526

Don Nicholson (KN4OEY) is the new membership chair.

NET REPORT

SWARC Group – September 2023

There were four hams who were net check-in champs for September; they are Bill, KK4QDZ, Al, WA4TCJ, Walter, KG4JOK, and Al, WA3JJG. The monthly total of check-ins was 346—a significant increase from last month! Note that **not** all net controls record their counts so numbers could actually be higher than recorded.



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- Saturday and Sunday evenings will be called by KT4JR & K7RLH
- KO4ZFO will call Monday evenings
- KA0GMY will call Tuesday evenings (backup is K7RLH)
- KK4BK will call Wednesday evenings except on meeting nights
- KO4ZFO or a board member will call Thursday evenings
- Fridays will continue to be called by NC4MP
- And we need backups – JUST BECAUSE.

Please contact Rodney Warren, KO4ZFO, if you are interested in calling one or more nets.

SWARC Mission Statement

South Wake ARC's primary purpose is to further the Amateur Radio Service through programs, activities, and education, in order to promote the radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency of its members. Further, it shall be our purpose to support the welfare of our community through public service including radio communications for emergency situations and public events, and through providing information, training, and assistance to individuals or organizations with an interest in the Amateur Radio Service. Refer to the SWARC web site for the Board of Directors/Officers and Appointed Positions.



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LINKS (if you have other links you want added then send them to me)

PRN

A Wide Area Digital Amateur Radio Network

www.ncprn.net

GigaParts

www.gigaparts.com

QRZ

www.qrz.com

Ham Radio Outlet HRO

www.hamradio.com

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society RARS

www.rars.org

Johnson Amateur Radio Society JARS

www.jars.net

South Wake Amateur Radio Club SWARC

www.southwakearc.com

Carolina 440 Network

www.carolina440.net

North Carolina Packet

www.ncpacket.com

TARPN (Terrestrial Amateur Packet Radio Net)

www.tarpn.net

Useful Ham Info

www.torborg.com/a

Five County Ham Radio Enthusiasts

www.fivecountyhre.org



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ARRL News

Comment Deadlines Set on Proposed 60 - Meter Band Changes

A public period is open until October 30, 2023 for radio amateurs to comment on proposed changes to the 60 Meter band. [ARRL](#) is asking all radio amateurs to join it in urging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to continue the existing use of the band. ARRL is encouraging expressions of support to the FCC for the current 100 watt ERP power limit (instead of reducing the power limit to 15 watts EIRP) and continuing secondary access to the current channels. An opportunity to reply to comments ends on November 28, 2023. Comments should be submitted in FCC Docket No. [WT 23-120](#).

Currently, radio amateurs in the US have use of five discrete channels on a secondary basis on which they are permitted an effective radiated power (ERP) of 100 watts ERP. In [the Notice of Proposed Rule Making](#) the FCC solicits comment on reducing the secondary allocation to 15 kHz of contiguous spectrum between 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz with a power limit of 15 watts EIRP (equivalent to 9.1 watts ERP). The lesser spectrum and reduced power limit was adopted by the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15).

The federal government is the primary user of the 5 MHz spectrum. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the federal government's spectrum regulator, has argued that the WRC-15 proposals should be implemented as written. Doing so would result in amateurs losing four of the discrete channels they have been using on a secondary basis and having the maximum permissible power reduced by more than 10 dB, from 100 watts ERP to 9.1 watts ERP.

In 2017, [ARRL petitioned the FCC](#) to keep four of the current five 60-meter channels -- one would be within the new band -- as well as the current limit of 100 watts ERP. "Such implementation will allow radio amateurs engaged in emergency and disaster relief communications, and especially those between the United States and the Caribbean basin, to more reliably, more flexibly and more capably conduct those communications [and preparedness exercises], before the next hurricane season ...," ARRL said in its petition.





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ARRL said that years of amateur radio experience using the five discrete 5-MHz channels demonstrated that amateurs coexist well with the primary users at 5 MHz. "Neither ARRL, nor, apparently, NTIA is aware of a single reported instance of interference to a federal user by a radio amateur operating at 5 MHz to date," ARRL said in its 2017 petition.

ARRL will continue to advocate to maintain the 100-watt limit for 60 meters, continued authorization for the four channels outside the WRC allocation that are being used today, and adoption of the new 15 kHz allocation with the same 100-watt power limit.

In the NPRM, the FCC recognizes that Canada adopted rules equivalent to those proposed by the ARRL. "Finally, we note that Canada has essentially implemented the same rules as ARRL has requested," the Commission wrote.

The FCC seeks comment on the proposed 15 kHz of contiguous spectrum, but also on whether the existing channels should remain allocated to amateur radio on a secondary basis, and whether the maximum power limitations should be reduced from 100 to 9.1 watts ERP. The FCC also requested comments on whether the power limitation should be expressed as EIRP as the WRC-15 recommends or as ERP as in the current rules.

ARRL Launches *The NTS Letter*

There's a new newsletter in the ARRL repertoire as of this week. The first issue of [*The NTS Letter*](#) was published on October 3, 2023. *The NTS Letter* is a monthly digest of all things related to the ARRL National Traffic System®. It is edited by Marcia Forde, KW1U, who is a veteran traffic handler and serves as the Section Traffic Manager for the ARRL Eastern and Western Massachusetts and Rhode Island Sections.

The NTS is network that allows for rapid movement of messages, referred to as "traffic," from origin to destination, and for training amateur operators to handle written traffic and to participate in directed nets. The network consists of the layering and sequencing of both voice and CW traffic nets, as well as a digital system that operates 24/7. This nationwide system operates 365 days a year, generally relaying routine message traffic for training purposes and for maintaining readiness if called upon in an emergency. If called upon, these operators stand ready to assist emergency communications personnel and served-agency partners in relaying welfare and other messages. It is the modern continuation of the historic "radio relay" from ARRL's founding in 1914.



Director of the ARRL New England Division, Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC, said the NTS is a great way to get involved in emergency communications. "Newly licensed and experienced amateurs alike who



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Amateur Radio in the News

ARRL Public Information Officers, Coordinators, and many other member-volunteers help keep amateur radio and ARRL [in the news](#).

"[Ham radio more than a hobby for Hoosier Energy employees](#)" / Hoosier Energy (Indiana)
August 7, 2023 -- Hoosier Energy amateur radio operators.

- "[How to get started with a ham radio license](#)" / Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute (Missouri) October 5, 2023 -- Missouri School of Journalism.

[Share](#) any amateur radio media hits you spot with us.

ARRL Podcasts

On the Air

Sponsored by [Icom](#)

The cover story of *On the Air*'s September/October 2023 issue, "Foxhunting Basics," doesn't have anything to do with chasing down a woodland creature. Foxhunting is a radio direction-finding activity that you can enjoy with a radio club or group, or even with just one other friend -- and they don't even have to be a ham! Rob Zielfelder, N1NUG, explains how to get started with a couple of handheld radios and a directional antenna that you can make from inexpensive hardware store materials. One player hides somewhere with a radio, and sends intermittent transmissions, while the other player tracks them with the help of the radio's signal meter and a map. Listen to this month's episode for more information on how to join the fun.



ARRL Audio News

Listen to [ARRL Audio News](#), available every Friday. ARRL Audio News is a summary of the week's top news stories in the world of amateur radio and ARRL, along with interviews and other features.

The On the Air podcast is available on iTunes (iOS) and Stitcher (Android). The On the Air podcast and ARRL Audio News are also on blubrry -- [On the Air](#) | [ARRL Audio News](#).



Announcements



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The [Tamiami Amateur Radio Club \(TARC\)](#) will host Ham Radio Day at the William H. Jervey, Jr., Venice Public Library in Venice, Florida, on October 14, 2023. The event will run from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM ET, and it will feature special event call sign N4V and two stations on CW and phone. These stations will be set up outside the library entrance to demonstrate ham radio to the general public. A new partnership has been established between TARC and the Sarasota County libraries to make 44 books, including 15 titles on amateur radio, available to any patron of the 10-library system. A grant from the ARRL Foundation was combined with member donations to purchase the books. Promotion for the event began in August with a display case in the library lobby covering ham radio's past and present. "Making these books available to the public is a natural extension of our club's mission to encourage, teach, and assist people to explore a range of interests in ham radio," said Brian Jacobson, W1JBD, TARC project leader.

The ARRL Foundation is now accepting grant applications from amateur radio organizations for eligible amateur radio-related projects and initiatives, particularly those focused on educating, licensing, and supporting amateur radio activities. To grow amateur radio's future, youth-based projects and initiatives are especially encouraged. The ARRL Foundation grants program accepts proposals on a cyclical basis three times a year: in February, June, and October. Proposals for the June grant period are accepted through October 31. Awardees will be notified approximately 1 month after the closing of each cycle. The ARRL Foundation is also celebrating its 50th anniversary. The Foundation carefully manages a portfolio of endowments where donors have provided specific goals for their gifts, and that portfolio is invested and managed so that it can continue to support those goals for many years to come.



Additional information and a link to the grant application form can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-grants>

In Brief...

Amateur radio clubs and operators across the country are preparing for the ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on October 7 - 8, 2023. The SET is ARRL's annual national emergency exercise designed to assess the skills and preparedness of Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) volunteers, as well as those affiliated with other organizations involved in emergency and disaster responses. The SET is open to all radio amateurs and partner organizations, in addition to national, state, and local officials. To get



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involved, contact your local ARRL Emergency Coordinator or Net Manager. SET guidelines and report forms can be found at [ARRL Simulated Emergency Test \(SET\) Guidelines+](#). Ahead of the exercise, the Fort Herkimer Amateur Radio Association (FHARA) recently acquired a 24-foot-long Disaster Action Response Trailer (DART). In conjunction with the Herkimer County Public Health Office, the trailer will be used in emergency situations, public service, and educational opportunities. The DART trailer was recently on display at the Herkimer County Fair in Frankfort, New York, and it was well received by state, local, and county officials. Meanwhile, members of the [Calvert Amateur Radio Association](#) (CARA) in Maryland attended a presentation by Ron Startzel, KB5LNC, on the Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) to prepare for the ARRL Maryland-DC (MDC) Section SET exercise. Calvert County Emergency Coordinator Shawn Donley, N3AE, recently configured one of CARA's Kenwood TM-V71A radios in Barstow, Maryland, to be an APRS digipeater. Last fall, the site was proven to cover nearly all the county's land area. The APRS presentation helped give CARA members a greater understanding of the system. The presentation will be posted on the club's website for further reference. For more information on APRS, please visit <http://www.aprs.org/>. The MDC Section's SET will evaluate communications between field teams by locating National Geodetic Survey benchmarks and using APRS data and location services. The local Emergency Coordinator will pass the information to the MDC Section Emergency Coordinator using Winlink or other means. The MDC Section SET is part of ARRL's SET exercise.

The K7RA Solar Update

Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, reports for this week's ARRL Propagation Bulletin, ARLP040:

Seven new sunspot groups emerged this past week, but overall solar activity has declined.

It's great to see the sun covered in sunspots; see Spaceweather.com's recent image of the sun at <https://www.spaceweather.com/images2023/04oct23/hmi1898.gif>.

You can change the /04oct23/ field in the above URL to view a solar image of any date. By loading images of consecutive dates, you can initiate an animation using the back and forward buttons on your browser.

We are currently enjoying improved HF propagation with the change of seasons after the autumnal equinox. This is particularly noticeable on 12 and 10 meters.

Read an optimistic news story about the current solar cycle at <https://cdapress.com/news/2023/oct/02/were-strong-solar-cycle/>, and another report at <https://bit.ly/3RMPjT1>.

One new sunspot group appeared on September 30, followed by three



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more on October 1, and then one each on October 2, 3, and 4.

The average daily sunspot number declined from 170.6 to 128.6, while the average daily solar flux went from 168.8 to 155.6.

Geomagnetic indicators were quieter. The average daily planetary A index went from 17 to 9.1, and the average daily middle latitude A index declined from 13.7 to 8.9.

The outlook for next month has the solar flux at 160 on October 5; 162 on October 6 - 8; 155 on October 9 - 10; 150 and 160 on October 11 - 12; 158 on October 13 - 14; 156 on October 15 - 17; 154 on October 18 - 20; 152 on October 21; 154 on October 22 - 23; 156 and 158 on October 24 - 25; 160 on October 26 - 28; 162 on October 29 - 31, and 164 on November 1 - 3.

If we use this forecast as a guide, we can predict the solar flux average for the next reporting week, October 5 - 11, to be 2.4 points higher than that of this week.

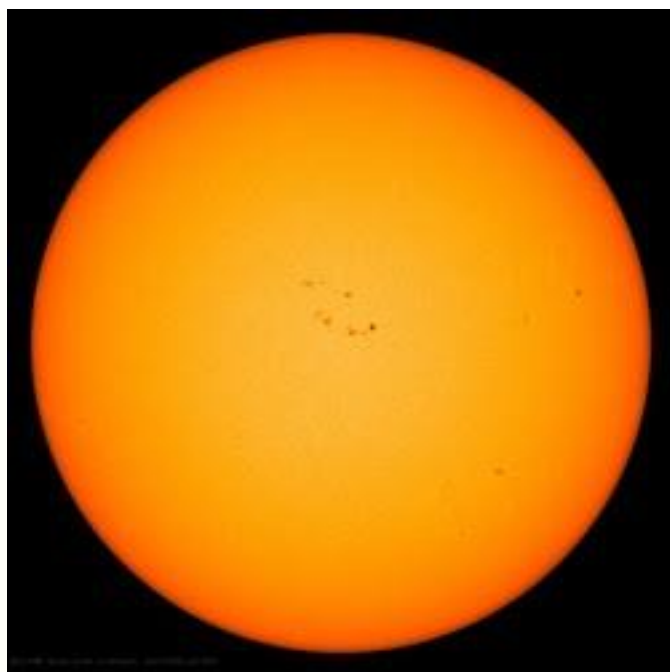
Predicted planetary A index is 12 on October 5 - 6; 15, 8, and 5 on October 7 - 9; 8 on October 10 - 11; 5 on October 12 - 21; 10 and 8 on October 22 - 23; 5 on October 24 - 28, and then 15, 12, 8, 15, and 8 on October 29 - November 2.

Sunspot numbers for September 28 - October 4, 2023, were 109, 102, 106, 136, 146, 150, and 151, with a mean of 128.6. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 147.8, 155, 159.1, 161.1, 157.4, 153.7, and 155, with a mean of 155.6. Estimated planetary A indices were 6, 12, 10, 9, 9, 8, and 10, with a mean of 9.1. Middle latitude A index was 5, 13, 11, 9, 10, 6, and 8, with a mean of 8.9.

Send your tips, questions, or comments to k7ra@arrl.net.

A comprehensive K7RA Solar Update is posted Fridays on the ARRL website. For more information concerning radio propagation, [visit](#) the ARRL Technical Information Service, [read](#) "What the Numbers Mean...", and [check out](#) the Propagation Page of Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA.

A propagation bulletin [archive](#) is available. For customizable propagation charts, visit



Solar disk image taken October 5, 2023. [Photo courtesy of NASA SDO/HMI]



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the [VOACAP Online for Ham Radio](#) website.

[Share](#) your reports and observations.

A weekly, full report is posted on [ARRL News](#).



Just Ahead in Radiosport

Yearlong -- [ARRL Volunteers On the Air](#) (VOTA). See the State Activations Schedule for weekly [W1AW Portable Operations](#), including:

- October 4 - 10 -- New Mexico W1AW/5
- October 4 - 10 -- Alaska W1AW/KL7
- October 4 - 10 -- Washington, DC W1AW/3
- October 11 - 17 -- Missouri W1AW/0
- October 11 - 17 -- Georgia W1AW/4
- October 11 - 17 -- California W1AW/6

Upcoming Contests:

- October 7 - 8 -- WARC Collegiate QSO Party (CW, phone, digital)
- October 7 - 8 -- Oceania DX Contest (phone)





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- October 7 -- Microwave Fall Sprint (CW, phone, digital)
- October 7 - 8 -- Russian WW Digital Contest (digital)
- October 7 - 8 -- IARU Region 1 UHF/Microwaves Contest (CW, phone, digital)
- October 7 - 8 -- International HELL Contest (digital)
- October 7 - 8 -- California QSO Party (CW, phone)
- October 8 -- UBA ON Contest (CW)
- October 9 -- QRP Group 2nd Sunday Sprint (CW, phone)
- October 10 -- 10-10 Int'l 10-10 Day Sprint (CW, phone, digital)
- October 10 -- DARC RTTY Sprint (digital)
- October 11 -- NAQCC CW Sprint (CW)
- October 11 -- RSGB 80m Autumn Series, Data (digital)

Visit the [ARRL Contest Calendar](#) for more events and information.



Upcoming Section, State, and Division Conventions

- October 6 - 7 | [Slidell EOC Hamfest](#), sponsoring the ARRL Louisiana State Convention, Slidell, Louisiana
- October 7 | [Wichita Area and Kansas State Hamfest](#), sponsoring the ARRL Kansas State Convention, Wichita, Kansas



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- October 7 | [71st Rock Hill Hamfest](#), sponsoring the ARRL South Carolina Section Convention, Rock Hill, South Carolina
- October 8 | [Nutmeg Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL Connecticut State Convention, North Haven, Connecticut
- October 13 - 14 | [Melbourne Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL Florida State Convention, Melbourne, Florida
- October 14 | [ARRL Minnesota State Convention](#), Brooklyn Park, Minnesota
- October 20 - 22 | [Pacificon](#), hosting the ARRL Pacific Division Convention, San Ramon, California
- November 4 - 5 | [Stone Mountain Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL Georgia State Convention, Lawrenceville, Georgia
- November 4 | [Wisconsin ARES/RACES Conference 2023](#), hosting the ARRL Wisconsin Section Convention, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin
- November 18 - 19 | [Fort Wayne Hamfest and Computer Expo](#), hosting the ARRL Central Division Convention, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
- December 8 - 9 | [Tampa Bay Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL West Central Florida Section Convention, Plant City, Florida

Search the [ARRL Hamfest and Convention Database](#) to find events in your area.

Have News for ARRL?

Submissions for the ARRL Letter and ARRL News can be sent to news@arrl.org. -- John E. Ross, KD8IDJ, ARRL News [Editor](#)

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